

Lost Continent



Book One
of Six





Akihiro Yamada's
LOST CONTINENT

Art and Story by Akihiro Yamada
Translated by Alan Gleason and Toren Smith
Lettered and Retouched by Tom Orzechowski
Edited by Greg S. Balsden

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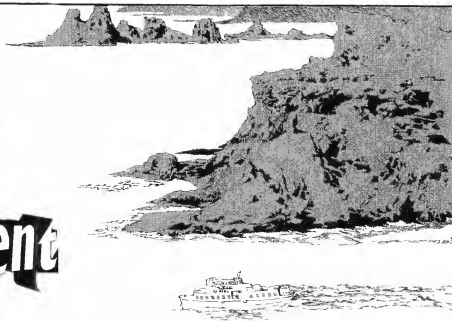
**In this English edition of Lost Continent, some artwork has
been reversed to read left-to-right for the American audience.**

1945. YET
ANOTHER GREAT
WAR CAME TO
AN END... AND
THOUGH IT HAD
SWEEP ACROSS
THE WORLD,
ONE MYSTERY
HAD BEEN LEFT
UNTOUCHED--
FAR ABOVE THE
DESTRUCTION,
AT THE TOP OF
THE WORLD...

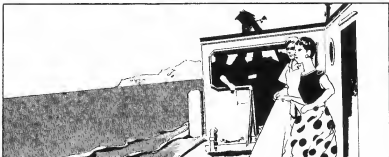
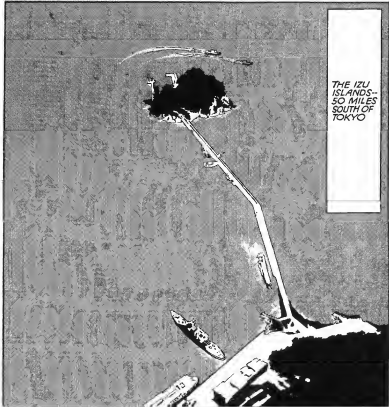


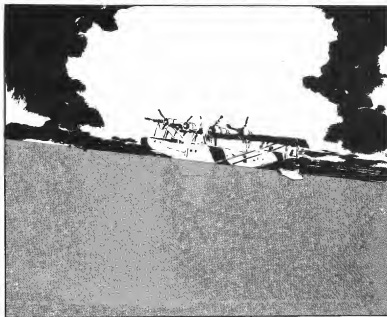
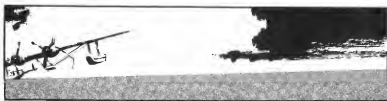
Lost Continent

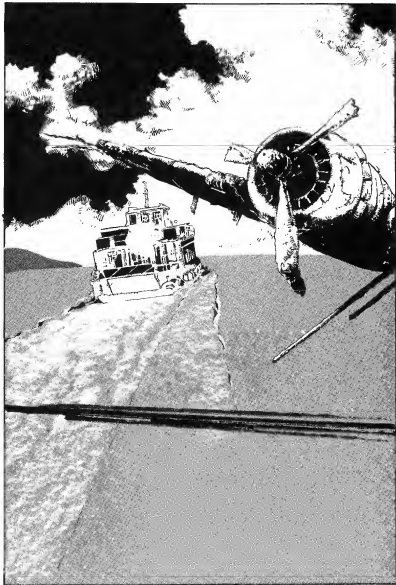
Act One



THE IZU
ISLANDS--
50 MILES
SOUTH OF
TOKYO











YEAH,
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE,
HASN'T IT?
I JUST
GOT BACK
TODAY.



THANK
HEAVENS
YOU'RE
ALL
RIGHT!

IT'S
NICE
TO SEE
YOU
AGAIN,
TAKIKO.

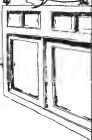


HOW'S
YOUR
MOTHER
BEEN
?



FINE...
SHE'S
OUT
RIGHT
NOW,
BUT I
EXPECT
HER
BACK
SOON.

WE GOT
YOUR
POSTCARD
SAYING
YOU
WERE
RETURNING,
SO I
DUSTED
YOUR
ROOM.









DO IT
YOUR-
SELF
!

Heh heh...
GUESS
SHE
DOESN'T
LIKE ME
MUCH.

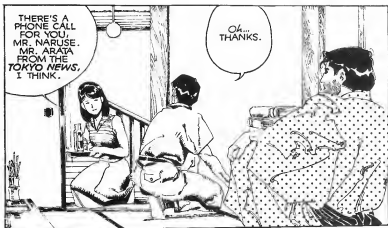


SO YOU
WERE AN
OFFICIAL WAR
CORRESPON-
DENT ON THE
SOUTHERN
FRONT,
eh?



RIGHT.
I WAS
DISCHARGED
ONE WEEK
BEFORE THE
WAR ENDED.
AND I'VE BEEN
WORKING FOR
THE DAILY
PAPERS
EVER
SINCE.







BIG
NEWS?

THEY
FOUND AN
UNMANNED
PLANE
FLOATING
IN THE
OCEAN OFF
THE IZU
PENINSULA.

YOU
CAN LOOK
FOR THE
DETAILS
IN SOME
OTHER
PAPER.

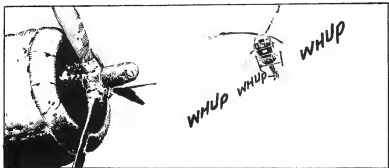
LET'S
CHECK
IT
OUT.

I AM
NOT
GOING
!!

WHY
NOT?
IT
SOUNDS
INTER-
ESTING!
C'MON...
LET'S
GO
!















YEAH,
THIS IS THE
SHIRASE...
NO DOUBT
ABOUT
IT.

THAT'S THE
PLANE TEITO
UNIVERSITY
SENT ON A POLAR
OVERFLIGHT
LAST YEAR,
RIGHT?

PROFESSOR,
LOOK! A
BUTTER-
FLY!



Hmm.
LOOKS LIKE
A VICTORIA
KINMON
SWALLOWTAIL --
THEY'RE ONLY
FOUND IN
MICRONESIA.



H-HOLD
ON A
MINUTE,
HERE! YOU
MEAN THE
SHIRASE
FLOATED UP
FROM THE
SOUTH?!



EH?

EH...
NO...



NO...

DEFI-
NATELY
FROM
THE
NORTH...



WELL,
DESPITE
THE
OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCE-
MENT,
NARUSE...

...WE
OBVIOUSLY
HAVE
HERE AN
OBJECT THAT
DISAPPEARED
IN THE NORTH,
AND RE-
APPEARED
IN THE
SOUTH.



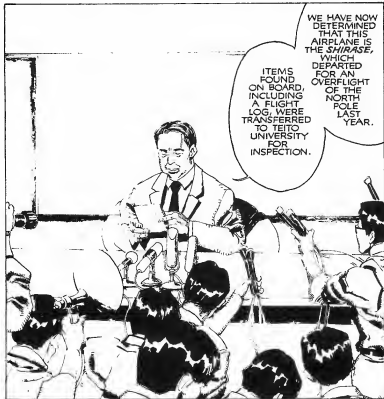


AT
THIS
TIME,
WE WILL
ANNOUNCE
THE
RESULTS
OF OUR
INQUIRY.





AT
9:30 A.M.
ON JULY 28,
AN UNMARKED
AIRPLANE WAS
DISCOVERED
OFF THE
SHIMODA
COAST,
IN IZU.



ITEMS
FOUND
ON BOARD,
INCLUDING
A FLIGHT
LOG, WERE
TRANSFERRED
TO TEITO
UNIVERSITY
FOR
INSPECTION.

WE HAVE NOW
DETERMINED
THAT THIS
AIRPLANE IS
THE *SHIRASE*,
WHICH
DEPARTED
FOR AN
OVERFLIGHT
OF THE
NORTH
POLE
LAST
YEAR.

THE OCEAN
WAS SEARCHED
IN THE VICINITY OF
THE DOWNED
AIRCRAFT FOR THE
MISSING CREW--
ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR
MASAMI KANDA OF
TEITO UNIVERSITY
AND PILOT
EIICHI HARUTA--
BUT NO SIGN
OF THEM WAS
FOUND.



THE
CAUSE OF
THEIR
DISAPPEAR-
ANCE IS
UNCLEAR
AT THIS
POINT.



WE ARE ALSO
CAREFULLY
EXAMINING
THE QUESTION
OF WHY AN
AIRPLANE ON
A POLAR FLIGHT
DRIFTED
ASHORE AT
SHIMODA
IN IZU.

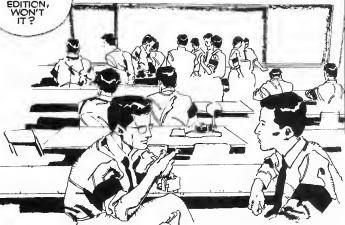
THE ONLY
POTENTIAL CLUES
ARE THE FLIGHT LOG
AND A CAMERA
FOUND ON BOARD.
WHEN OUR
INVESTIGATION
HAS MADE SOME
PROGRESS, WE WILL
ANNOUNCE THE
FINDINGS.

THAT
IS ALL,
GENTLE-
MEN.



RIGHT...

IT'LL
MAKE
IT INTO
THE
EVENING
EDITION,
WON'T
IT?



I SENT
IT OVER
WITH
SOMEONE
FROM
THE
LOCAL
OFFICE,
SO...



NO, I'M
NOT LEAVING
YET. I WANT
TO GET AN
INTERVIEW WITH
PROFESSOR TONEH
INTO THE
MORNING
EDITION.

NARUSE,
I'M
HEADING
BACK
TO
TOKYO
NOW.



I'LL BE HEADING
BACK, TOO, BUT
NOT UNTIL AROUND
TEN... huh? NO, I
WAS TALKING TO
SOMEONE HERE.
EXCUSE ME A
MOMENT, WOULD
YOU?



SO
WHAT'S
YOUR
HURRY?



I HEAR
THEY'RE
TAKING THE
CAMERA THEY
FOUND ON
THE SHIRASE
TO THE
UNIVERSITY.

SO
I'M
GOING
THERE,
TOO.



HANG ON A
MINUTE! UH,
LOOK-- I'LL
BE AT MY
PAPER'S HEAD
OFFICE TONIGHT...
DROP BY,
ALL RIGHT?

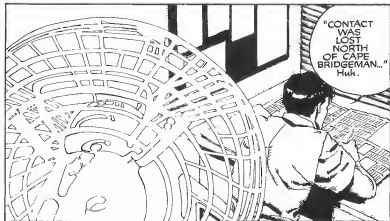
RIGHT,
GOT YOU.
DON'T WORRY--
I'LL BRING
YOU SOME
JUICY
NEWS.



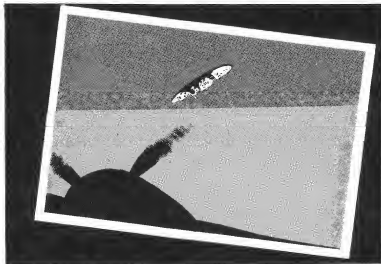
東都新報



"...AS PART
OF A PROJECT
LAUNCHED BY
TEITO UNIVERSITY TO
REACH THE NORTH
POLE BY AIRPLANE,
THE SHIRASE POLAR
EXPEDITIONARY
FLIGHT OF
AUGUST 10,
1955..."







BUT NOW
IT LOOKS
LIKE THIS
SHIP IS
OVER-
HEAD.

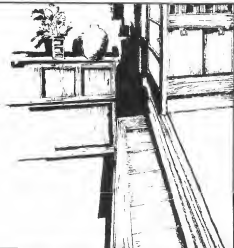
IT DOES,
DOESN'T IT?
AND THE
SHIRASE ISN'T
CAPABLE OF
INVERTED FLIGHT--
THE ENGINES
WOULD STALL.



WHICH
MEANS
THAT'S A
PHOTO OF
A SHIP
SAILING
ABOVE
THE
SHIRASE...



I'M SORRY...
I DON'T
THINK
MR. HAZEKURA
WILL BE
COMING
BACK
TONIGHT.



I
SEE.

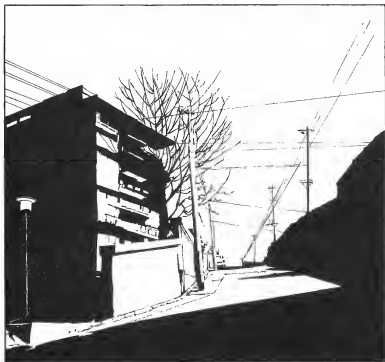
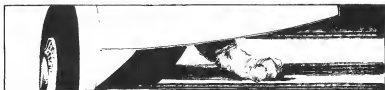


THAT'S QUITE
UNFORTUNATE.
I VERY MUCH
WANTED TO
MEET WITH
HIM. I GUESS
I'LL TRY
SOME OTHER
TIME.



IS THERE
ANYTHING
YOU'D
LIKE ME
TO TELL
HIM? ANY
MESSAGE
...?











KEY

1. TOKYO NEWS • 2. SHIRASE FOUND! •
3. Telto University On-Site Investigation •
4. Midsummer Mystery

Tuesday, August 1, 1956

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②

東都新報

①

真夏のミッドサマー

④

③ 帝都大学
調査団現地

発行所
東京









SO, YOU'RE
SAYING YOU
DON'T KNOW
THIS KIRINO,
AND HAVE
NEVER MET
HIM?



THAT'S
RIGHT.

TWO OF THE ITEMS
FOUND ON THE
VICTIM WERE A
NOTE GIVING
DIRECTIONS TO
YOUR HOUSE, AND
A CLIPPING
FROM THE
EVENING
PAPER.

IT'S THE
ARTICLE
YOU
WROTE
ABOUT
THAT
IZU
INCIDENT.

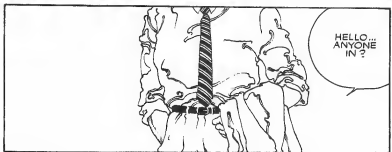
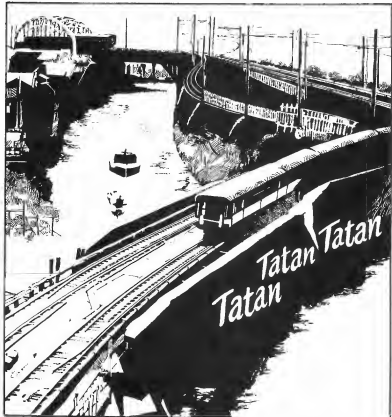
YOU
REALLY
HAVE NO
IDEA
WHY HE
CAME
TO SEE
YOU?

SORRY...
I SURE
DON'T.

I SEE.
THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
TIME.

WE MAY
HAVE TO
ASK
YOU TO
SERVE
AS A
WITNESS.
IF WE
DO, I
HOPE
WE CAN
BE
ASSURED
OF YOUR
CO-
OPERATION.







IS
NARUSE
HOME?

HE
CAME
BACK
JUST
AFTER
YOU
LEFT.



COULD
YOU
TELL
ME
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

THE MAN
WHO CAME
HERE LAST
NIGHT DIED,
DIDN'T HE?!
WAS IT AN
ACCIDENT?
WAS HE
MURDERED?



YOU
SHOULDN'T
HANG
AROUND
NARUSE
SO MUCH,
TAKIKO.

IF YOU
SPEND TOO
MUCH TIME WITH
INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTERS,
YOU START
THINKING
LIKE THEY
DO.

HAZEKURA!
WHAT
LOUSY
LUCK!

I HEARD
ABOUT
IT FROM
TAKIKO!

HE WAS
MURDERED!
HE WAS,
WASN'T
HE!

LOOK, JUST
FORGET ABOUT
IT. WHAT ABOUT
YOU? AREN'T
YOU SUPPOSED
TO BE AT YOUR
OFFICE?

NO,
MY EDITOR
ASKED ME
TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
THE SHIRASE
FROM YOU.
I'VE BEEN
WAITING.

SURE,
I'LL
HELP
YOU OUT.

BUT IN
EXCHANGE,
I HAVE A
FAVOR TO
ASK YOU.



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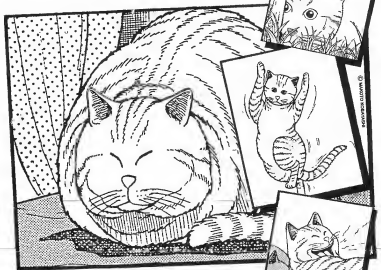
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Next month in
Akihiro Yamada's
LOST CONTINENT



from the Tokyo News, August 1, 1956

The Shirase has been found.

The seaplane, spearhead of Teito University's Arctic Expedition launched on August 10, 1955, today floated derelict and empty but for scientific equipment and papers into the southern port city of Izu Bay. The double-engine Explorer had been missing and presumed lost at sea for more than a year.

Perhaps as intriguing as the mystery of the Shirase's loss is the discovery onboard of the expedition's log detailing a search not merely for the North Pole, but also—perhaps primarily—for a "lost continent" in which an unknown people survive in a prehistoric environment amidst dinosaurs and behemoth mammals.

Teito University spokesman Hasekura Masamune, an archeology professor who helped organize the Shirase expedition, disavowed the mysterious documents—and their implications of a deeper purpose to the journey—claiming they are "nonsense, ravings of hopeful intellects driven mad by their apparent ordeal lost at sea."

Hasekura attributed the expedition's loss to "technical failures within the Shirase, apparently," but said he could not elaborate until "further studies" of the craft have been concluded.

Hasekura's denials notwithstanding, the documents exist, currently held by Tokyo Times reporter Naruse Osamu, who helped in the ship's salvage this morning. Naruse claimed in a press conference late this afternoon that he would disclose the documents' full contents, with corroborating evidence of the "lost continent" and its race of "humankind's predecessors" gathered during his independent, eight-month investigation of the Shirase disappearance.



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